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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The FCC must reject the US Telecom Associations petition to end the non-discriminatory rate-setting requirements for unbundled broadband infrastructure.

If the petition is granted, it will have a disastrous effect on the expansion of broadband in areas that the large carriers refuse to serve. It will also increase current subscriber costs in areas that receive broadband access through existing telecom infrastructure. This impact rural areas in particular. We had zero internet service in our area. We also have close to non-existent cell phone service. We now have fiber internet, after a lot of community effort thanks to a small local carrier willing to expand even though they won't make the mega profits the big carriers require to enter a new area. Prices are reasonable and we have near 100% household signups. Without the access to AT&Ts existing middle-mile infrastructure at a non-discriminatory rate, this project could not have happened.

To deploy broadband to unserved and underserved rural areas throughout the country, its imperative that existing UNE regulations remain in force. The big carriers have no interest and zero incentive or mandate to serve rural areas or areas difficult to wire. Only smaller carriers will take the initiative, but without the existing unbundled network elements regulations, they will not be able to affordably offer their service.

You must reject the petition to end the non-discriminatory rate-setting requirements for unbundled broadband infrastructure.

Tony DeYoung